

## **West Lafayette Go Greener Commission Meeting**

Minutes of Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 7:15 PM

Council Chambers, West Lafayette City Hall

Attending: Allen Jacobsen; Aparna Puri; Diane Damico; Dave Henderson; Heather Gall; Lindsey Payne; Thom Davis

Absentees: Denise Blank; Peter Bunder; Parr Durr; Kristin Flannelly; Gene Hanus; Tom Voight

Others: Rick Parsons (TDSWD); Angie Andrews (City of Lafayette—water pollution control department);

Sara Peel (Wabash River Enhancement Corporation--WREC); Zehan Yao (Purdue Engineering Student);

Yanlin Zhu (Purdue Engineering Student); Peter Downey

- I. Diane: Call to order
- II. Diane - Announcements
  - a. Global Fest was cancelled so we couldn't do any "greening" of the event—we will have a lot of extra compostable dinnerware; Sara offered to store it at WREC; Dave will see if city will want recycling bins
  - b. Farmers market has two new masters—Susan Girard and Robin Pickett
  - c. Soil test kit winners – Beth Misner and Eric Hinks!
  - d. Diane's homework for sustainability report – 3 boards that do purchasing 1) redevelopment commission, 2) public works, 3) parks and recreation; has clause "promote the use of recycled products"
- III. Introductions
- IV. Sara (WREC)
  - a. Green practice signs will be put out by ESE Graduate Student program as part of their symposium on October 17<sup>th</sup>; signs will be permanent placements, so homeowners will be contacted as to where they want it; code at bottom of sign will also take you to TippiEcoNow website; postcards on table are fair efforts to collect data on green practices
  - b. Cost-share programs - WREC cost-share program used to install agricultural and urban water improvement projects. \$14.3 million in need has been identified and to date, \$606,000 has been spent locally to install such projects. An additional \$315,000 in requests for urban-based improvement projects are in the queue for funding; just got a phone call from IDEM for more money to do urban and ag projects; projects are split equitably between ag and urban due to population density in urban and acreage in ag areas; Happy Hollow updates – high traffic, last December started talking to City to work on some issues, City put off conversation; WREC's idea is that they will address any project that people have interest in as long as they have staffing; WREC also offers consultation service/technical assistance to those that need it even if money isn't there
  - c. Ford-Purdue-WREC-Oakland C3 Grant, 50K to install student-led urban water projects in the community; sites—Oakland HS, Cary Home, Imagination Station, and Purdue

- d. Megan Benage has worked with City to make sure projects are installed properly Heather
- e. Has information on Stormwater Water Advisory board and will scan and send to group—includes plans for water projects and allocated money, specifically for Happy Hollow there is allocated money after stormwater fee is in place; next meeting they will produce a budget and allocation distribution for projects; public can attend meetings

Allen

- f. Parr has talked to Joe Payne of Parks and Rec

Diane

- g. When can public get involved?

Sara

- h. If they follow the same process as Lafayette, there will be public comment sessions; you should work through the City Engineering Office to figure out exactly how these projects will be planned and put in place
- i. Two Stage Ditch and Bio-Reactor, September 27
- j. Urban Low Income at New Chauncey Housing, October 10 – P-free fertilizer, composting, cost-share, install a rain barrel
- k. Wabash Sampling Blitz, September 28

Dave

- l. Should we bring Dave Buck in to talk about projects? Parr meeting with Joe is a good start for Happy Hollow; on City wastewater page there are links to fact sheets - <http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/departments/division.php?fDD=5-196>

V. Angie Andrews (City of Lafayette)

- a. Good, bad, and ugly with stormwater utility; identified projects and established fee structure; have to justify projects to people; no idea how much staffing it took on a daily basis to handle the justification, have 30-40 people; once you start charging the working load multiples—every day dozen calls about “issues”; positive side is that they are being educated on this issues; eventually this will slow down; they even advertize to call 24 hours a day if have questions; requires a lot of staffing to maintain the “green” installations—rain gardens, bioswales; \$5 at the end of the day is not enough; be wary b/c the tendency is to identify the big projects, but forget about the little ones that requires and extension amount of attention; have given away over 200 rain barrels and now is selling them at \$25 a barrel—it is a gateway to interest in other practices; a lot of time spent is educating; we keep track of emails and with TippEcoNow Sara is still mapping where these rain barrels are installed; also have to monitor own departments to make sure they are using best management practices; any plans submitted are still vetted through engineering office and approved; tunnel is working out well, we have reduced occurrences by about 34% and are extended it further to eliminate another CSO; now have the report a polluter problem; good thing is you don’t have to reinvent the wheel you can always call us; and we also do tours and our green practices
- b. Sara – why we are putting the signs out, to create movement and competition

- VI. Thom
  - a. Recycling event in Greencastle, successful 6,500 pounds of e-waste about two pounds per household, had a lot of community support there, two manufacturer, mayor's office
- VII. Rick
  - a. Latino Festival, Saturday, Sept 15, will have booth to outreach, Aparna will help with translation
  - b. Megan is planning honeysuckle assassination day on Saturday, October 13 in a park
- VIII. Dave
  - a. Not much happening at Clean Quarterly conference call
- IX. Lindsey
  - a. Green Tour - Saturday, October 20, 2012; Guided Walking Tour at 9AM and 11AM; Guided Bus Tour at 9AM; all stops open to foot traffic 9AM – 11AM
  - b. Map: <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=213132019912907943762.0004c8fac848ffa2f798d>
  - c. Confirmed stops
    - Downtown Walking Tour
      - 1. Grateful Heart Gallery & Gift; Farmers Market; City of Lafayette
    - Bus Tour
      - 1. Oscar Winski; TCSWD HHW; Alcoa; Wastewater Treatment Utility
  - d. Potential stops
    - Downtown Walking Tour
      - 1. City Foods; Virtuous Cycles; North Street
    - Bus Tour Stops
      - 1. City Bus; Purdue Green Roof
- X. Diane
  - a. Sustainability Report – please send Lindsey your data; if you can't find it, let her know!
- XI. Lindsey motions to adjourn, Heather seconds, adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:41PM
- XII. Next meeting October 9, 2012

Recorded by Lindsey Payne and submitted to Diane Damico on September 11, 2012

## **Appendix A**

### **Wildlife / Vegetation (Parr)**

- 1. # of bird species, bird count (Barney Dunning, Purdue?)
- 2. Toxic Pesticides, chemical use of city departments (ind dept)
- 3. Wet land, prairie restoration (Dave Buck)
- 4. # of city trees (Bev Shaw and Parks dept City)
  - 6100 city trees in West Lafayette.

## Water and River Quality (Lindsey)

1. # of CSOs (WREC)
  - 3 outfalls, map attached
2. Unwanted medicine drop offs in pounds (Janet Shepherd)
  - 2010 @600 lbs @290 people
  - 2011 @1631 lbs @955 people
  - 2012 @2485 lbs @ 875 people

As you can see 2012 is way over pounds of 2011 and it is only July!

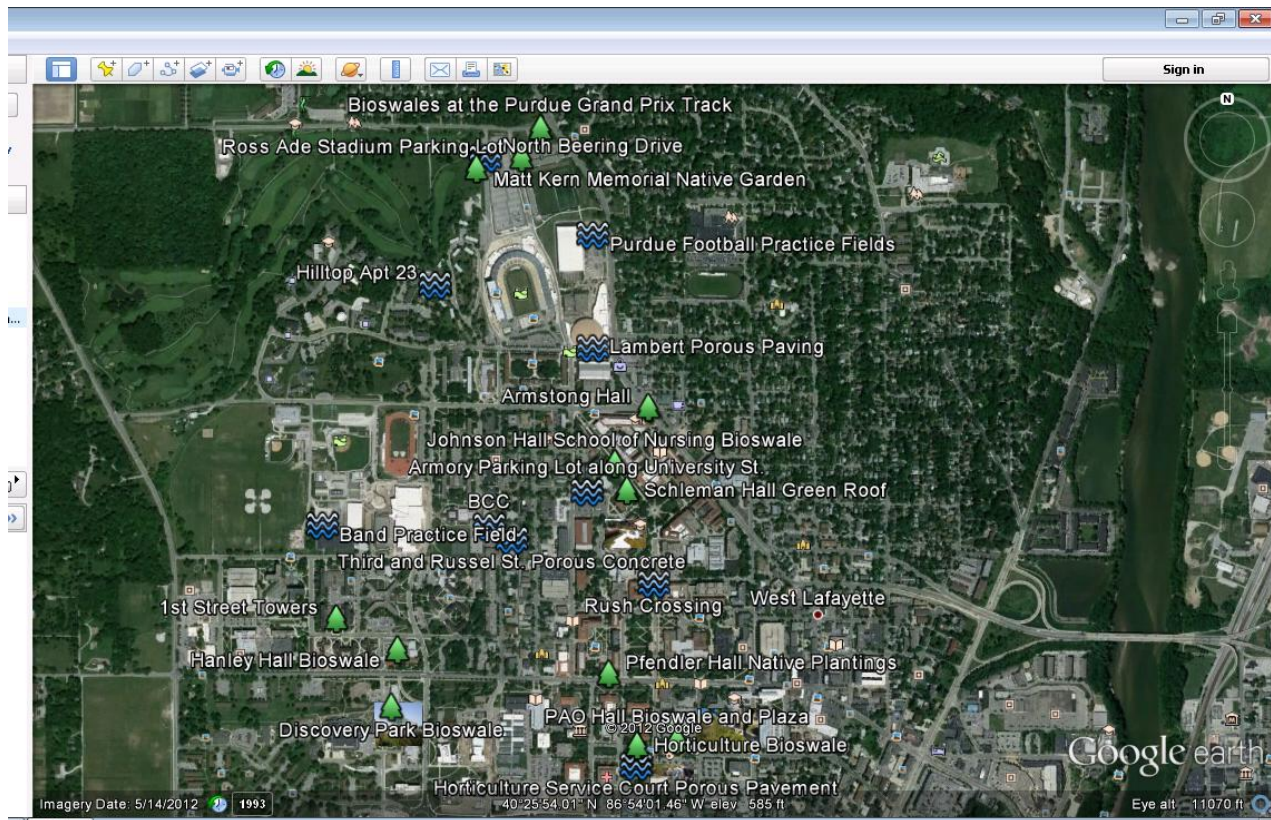
### 3. Water consumption per household

4. Green Practices (WREC)

Attached: map showing practices installed in West Lafayette based on what we know from voluntary uploads to TippEcoNow, rain barrel sale lists, 319 funded projects and Purdue's stormwater list. Include source of info as [www.TippEcoNow.com](http://www.TippEcoNow.com) and/or WREC.

In total, green practices in West Lafayette are as follows:

- 20 rain gardens or bioswales (Bioswales are on PU campus; RG are private except for Lilly Nature Center)
  - 14 pervious paver locations (does not include two new projects that are 319 funded on Chauncey)
  - 35 rain barrel locations (total number = 54)
  - 1 green roof
  - 13 native plantings (likely well short of the actual total)
5. Other statistics re health of the river (WREC)
    - <http://www.wabashriver.net/wabash-river-survey/>
  6. Nontraditional water retention planning (765-775-5130, Michael Susong)  
(BMPs that reduce runoff like infiltration ponds, pervious pavement, wetlands, bioswales, etc.)
    - Waste water treatment plant – small planting, more residential rain garden-scale
    - Lilly Nature Center – rain garden, pervious pavement
    - Three ponds at intersection of NW and Lindberg – plantings around perimeters are water plants, submersible, 2 wet and 1 dry, plants can handle both conditions
    - Cumberland Avenue between Yeager and US 52 – plantings, curb turn-outs
    - Purdue Campus/Tippecanoe Partnership Group, WL, Laf, Battleground, Dayton, Purdue, Tippecanoe County, Ivy Tech, [tippecanoesw.org](http://tippecanoesw.org)



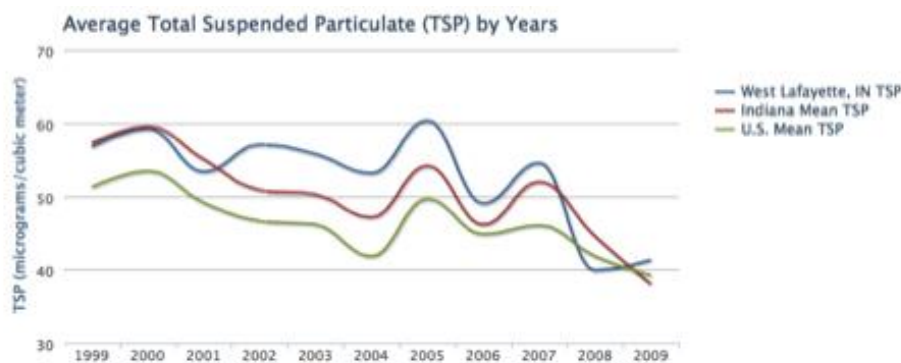
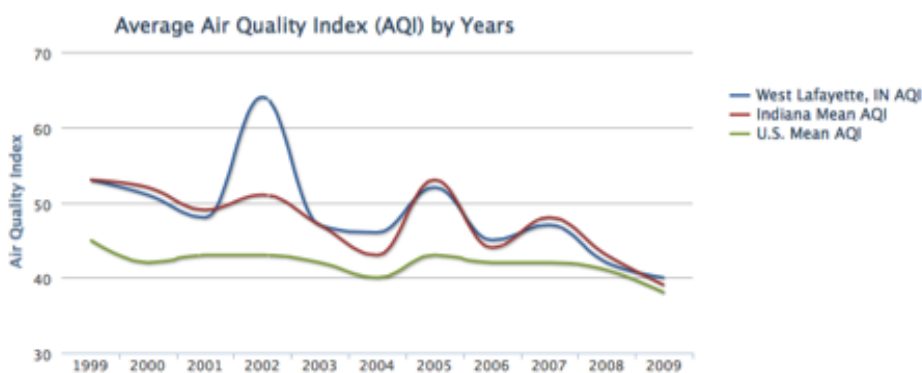
- Low-Impact Design – green practices, 200 pages of specifications of alternatives developers can use, ordinance allows this design to be used, but not required

## Air Quality (Heather)

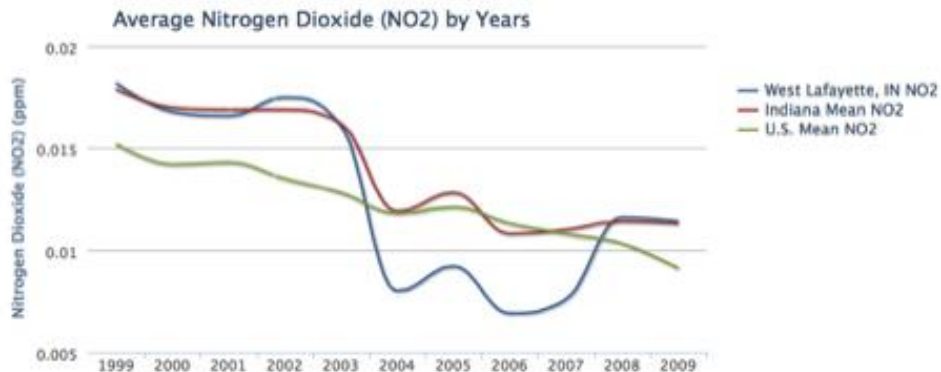
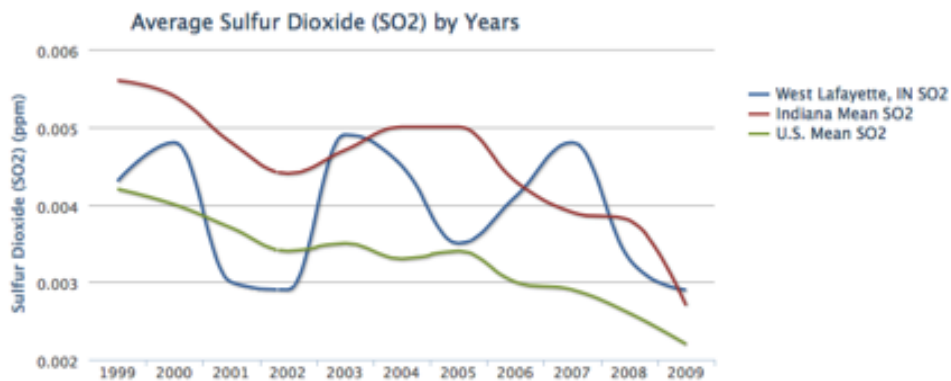
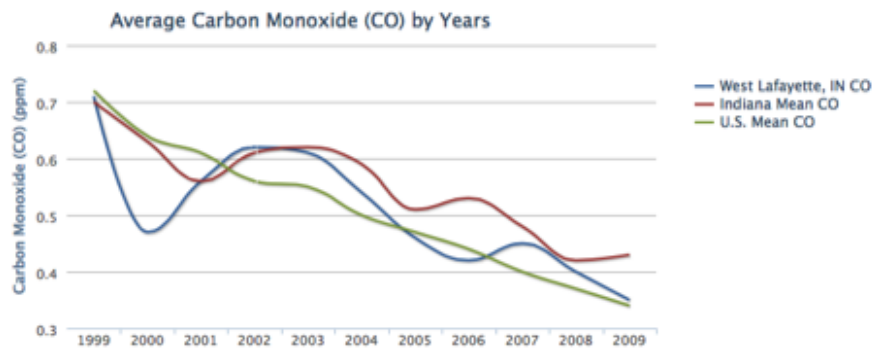
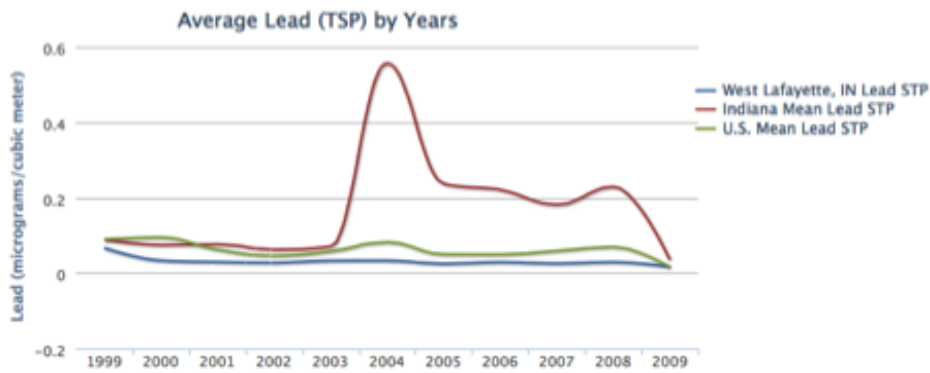
### 11. EPA air quality index (Earth and Atmospheric Science dept, Purdue)

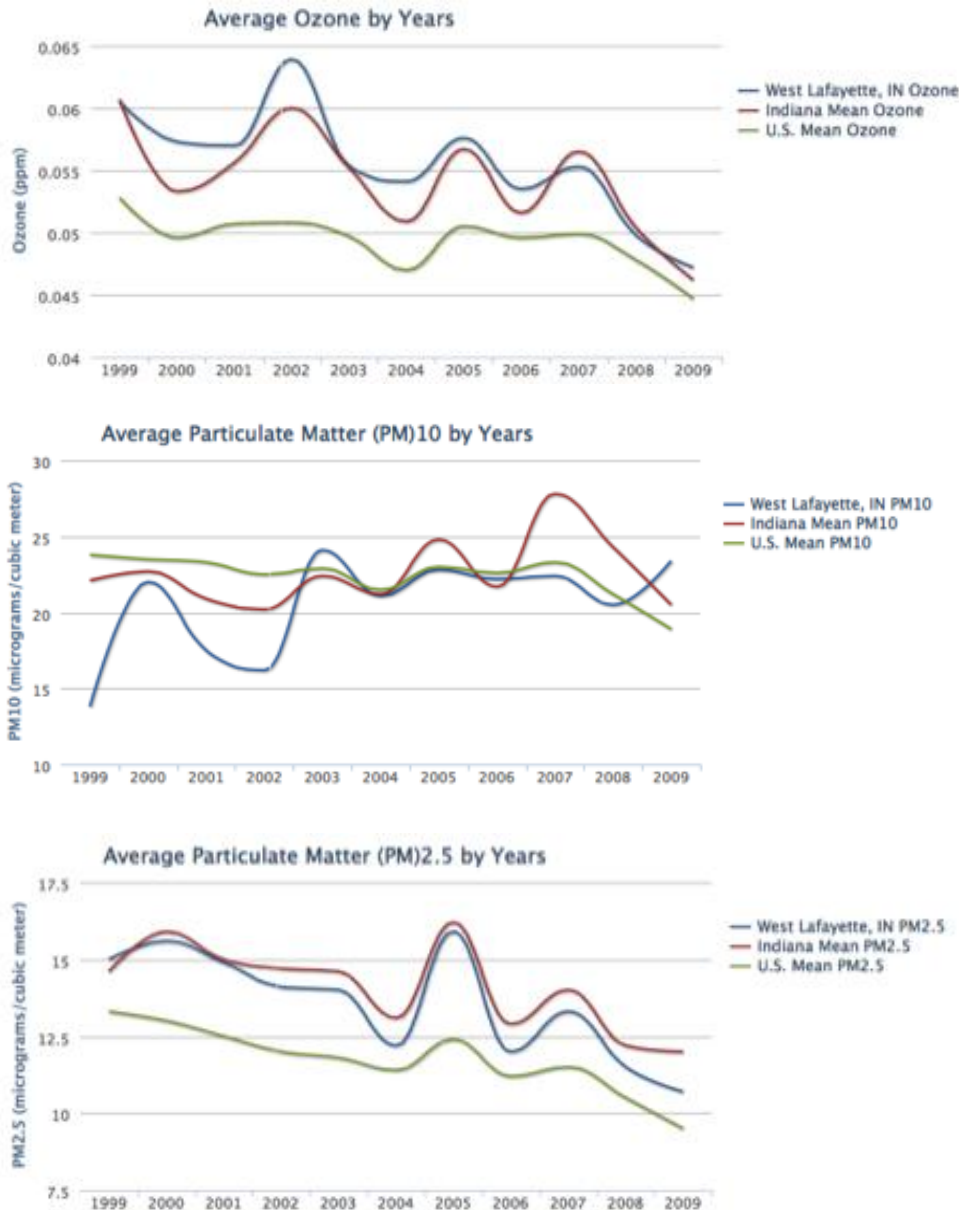
- West Lafayette, IN has an overall air quality score of 7.4/10, where 0 corresponds to “breathable” and 10 corresponds to “outstanding”. This overall score is comprised of the following scores for various pollutants: (i) 9.1 for carbon monoxide; (ii) 7.6 for ozone; (iii) 8.6 for PM 10 (particulate matter less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter); (iv) 3.8 for PM 2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter); (v) 5.4 for sulfur dioxide; and (vi) 6.2 for nitrogen dioxide. (Source: <http://www.homefacts.com/airquality/Indiana/Tippecanoe-County/West-Lafayette.html>)
- The Environmental Protection Agency uses an Air Quality Index (AQI) to characterize the air quality at locations across the country. The AQI ranges from 0 to 500, with 0-50 as “good” air quality and 301-500 as “hazardous”. The graphs below show the trends in air quality for West Lafayette, IN from 1999 - 2009. (Source: <http://www.usa.com/west-lafayette-in-air-quality.htm>). In general, air quality in West Lafayette is similar to Indiana’s air quality but is worse than the nation’s average air quality. The overall trend since 2002 has been towards improved air quality. Air quality parameters typically associated with emissions from fixed (e.g., factories) and mobile (e.g., cars) sources are nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. Sulfur dioxide levels have been above the national average since 2003.

While sulfur dioxide levels do not appear to have a strong trend, nitrogen dioxide levels generally decreased until 2004 and then showed an overall increase until 2008. The levels remained approximately the same, but above the national average from 2008-2009. PM 2.5 levels have been higher than the national average since 2009 but generally slightly lower than the state average. Additionally, other than a peak in 2005, fine particulate levels (PM 2.5) have shown a gradual decrease over the past decade. PM 2.5 levels are important because they are believed to pose the largest health risks ([http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/pm/pm25\\_index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/pm/pm25_index.html)). The sources of fine particulate matter are dominantly activities related to combustion (i.e., motor vehicles, power plants, etc.).









#### 12. Asthma and allergy rates (Tipp County health Dept?)

- Tippecanoe County is ranked 10th in the state for the number of asthma-related visits to the emergency room (<http://www.unityhc.com/news/view/lafayette-allergy-asthma-clinic-and-the-tobacco-free-partnership-celebrate-world-asthma-day-119>). The number of asthma-related visits to the emergency room in Tippecanoe County is 46.8 per 10,000 residents, as compared to 49.7 for the state ([http://www.in.gov/isdh/tpc/files/local\\_policy\\_brief\\_tippecanoe.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/tpc/files/local_policy_brief_tippecanoe.pdf)). Asthma cases can be related to smoking, and 24% of residents in Tippecanoe County are smokers (<http://county-health.findthedata.org/l/774/Tippecanoe>).

#### 13. Clean fleet rates- WL- owned vehicles, (Clerk's office?) and City Bus



- CityBus has 73 buses in its fleet, including 20 buses that are diesel-electric hybrid buses. CityBus also offsets some of its electricity by using three wind turbines. Since July 2011, these turbines have generated 187,665 kWh of energy (as of August 4, 2012). This energy generation has prevented 146.5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### **Waste (Tom)**

14. Recycling rates- WL residential (Streets/ sanitation)
15. Recycling amounts from drop off site – oil, glass, etc (Streets/ Sanitation)
16. Yard waste pickup rates (Streets/ Sani)
17. Short term events held within the city (e-waste, goodwill, metal pickups, shredding, compost programs, school lunch program)
18. Other nonfood diversion (?)

### **Transit (Allen)**

19. Ridership #s (City Bus, city routes)
20. Miles of trails (Parks and Rec)
- 21 Miles of bike lanes (John Thomas- what metrics will the APC use?)
22. # of bike racks (Development Dept)
23. Walk score – ratio of total sidewalks to roads? (Safe routes to school master plan? Dave Buck)

### **Smart Development (Diane)**

24. Population Density (APC)
25. % of parks, athletic fields, open space, recreational facilities

### **Food and Agriculture (Lindsey / Aparna)**

25. \$ sales at Farmers' market or number of bags given away (Bev Shaw)
  - \$300,000 sales a season
  - 500 bags given away each year
26. # of, area covered by community gardens

### **Public and Staff education (Diane)**

29. How does the public/ staff get information? EXAMPLES?

### **City Policies and Planning (Diane)**

30. Long term planning (storm water and trash plan)
31. West Lafayette- Clear-Blue-Green certified? Other designations?
32. Purchasing policies
33. Other environmental policies (no idling?)
  - We don't have anything official in that regard but I'd like to write up a bit on what other cities do when we move on to recommendations (if we include them at another time.)

all departments would say, if asked directly, that they comply with any state and fed regulations.

**Energy Consumption (Dan)**

34. City services and community?

## **Appendix A: Potential GG Volunteers**

- Marcus Neiman, marcus\_86219@hotmail.com
- Tyler Dull, tdull@purdue.edu
- Kent Freeman, freemak@purdue.edu
- Fushcia-Ann Hoover, fhoover@purdue.edu
- Kirk Yoder Purdue ESC - Environmental Science Club, purdueesc@gmail.com
- Anne Caroline Michel - Caribbean Association at Purdue University, (309) 7062821, annecaro92@yahoo.fr
- Wendy Reed, Process Engineer, wreed@CookBiotech.com, Cook Biotech Incorporated, 765.497.3355 ext. 4997, 765.807.1997 (direct)
- Aimei, achua@purdue.edu
- Andrea Reifus - Senior obtaining BS in Environmental Science - Public Policy & Economic Analysis, areifeis@gmail.com
- ICAN Youth Foundation - "ACT" - requesting contacts, projects or opportunities for women and youth members to work on Environmental Activism/Volunteering
- Silai C Mirzoy - senior at Purdue, smirzoy@purdue.edu
- Bill Arthur, wilarth306@gmail.com
- Sara Peel, CLM, Director, Watershed Projects, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, 200 N. 2nd Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47906, phone: (765) 337-9100, email: speel@lafayette.in.gov